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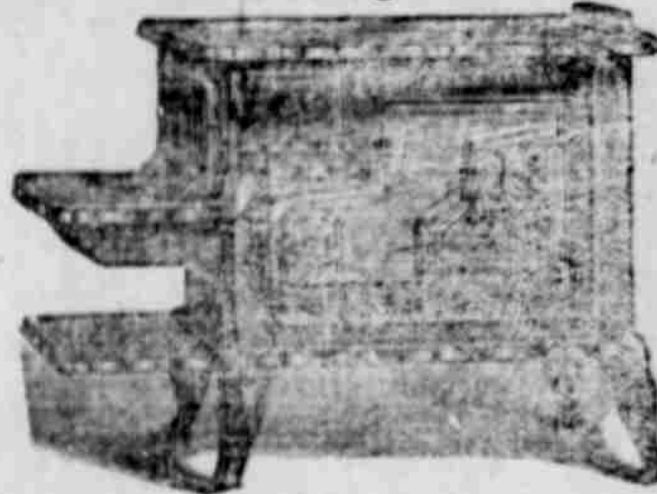
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STILL WORK TO BE DONE

Marconi System Not Yet
Finished.

MOUNTAINS INTERFERE

Manager Cross Explains Why the
Wireless Telegraph Line
Is Incomplete.

Is wireless telegraphy in Hawaii a failure?

What about the syren song sung by electrical experts of the simple system of dispatching dots and dashes across the waters? Space was to be annihilated and by the Fourth of July—and then by the First of September—Hawaiians were to have a matchless plant in operation by which dwellers in benighted Hilo might order their marketing an hour before the boat left Honolulu and view the realities when the vessel arrived the next morning.

Is it all pau?

These were some of the questions asked Manager Cross of the Wireless Telegraph Company yesterday.

"We need two things to perfect our system in Hawaii," said Mr. Cross.

"First we need more money; then we need time. We have worked hard since we began the installation of the plant and have not yet succeeded as we expected. But we will succeed surely and those who are interested in our accomplishments must not despair. If the wireless system fails here then it is a failure all over the world and as it has been proved all right elsewhere we have a right to look for success here.

"The high mountains have interfered with us. They have a condensing effect on the electrical waves so that while we receive the messages they are not intelligible. Marconi has instruments called 'screens' which overcome this difficulty, but his experts did not bring them to Hawaii.

"We have sent for them and they are on the way now. My original idea was to erect stations on both sides of each channel about the islands and had we done this we would have been successful already. I told Marconi this when I saw him some months ago but he thought that we could save money both in the original plant and in the expense of operation by having only the stations which we have now. These are at Kaimuki on this island, at Makana, on Maui, at Maunaloa, on Lanai, at the lighthouse on Molokai and at Mahukona, on Hawaii.

"We erected these stations and tried to send messages. We found that they were not plain and that the peculiar effect of the mountains on the wave must be overcome. If the screens which are coming should not effect what we think they will, we will follow my original plan of erecting poles on both sides of the channels between the islands. It is true that the stockholders are discouraged. Many expected to be reaping dividends by this time. The company was incorporated for \$50,000, and fifteen per cent of this amount was paid in. Then an assessment of 20 per cent was levied, but has not all been paid. Altogether about \$12,000 has been received by the company and we need more. The stockholders who have not paid the twenty per cent assessment should come to time at once as the money is wanted to push on the work.

"The last issue of the Electrical World and Engineer has a communication from an expert which is pertinent in the matter and as follows:

You had an editorial reference recently to wireless telegraphy, and in commenting upon the situation in China and South Africa suggested that it was time some use was made of wireless telegrams. If the system was any good, you thought it time that the advocates and inventors of wireless telegraphy were heard from and proved their claims. This is pertinent and just.

When Signor Marconi was in the United States last fall he had the opportunity of testing his wireless telegraphy at the yacht races for the America cup, and the success obtained then in times of peace induced him to remark, "I'd like to try the system in war." His second visit to this country now comes after an interval of six months of severe fighting in South Africa, where his system of wireless telegraphy has been in use on land and sea. The test in time of war has proved even more interesting and important than in the international yacht races off Sandy Hook.

Signor Marconi did not go to South Africa personally, but several of his assistants went there with several outfits of wireless telegraphy, and they operated in conjunction with the fleet patrolling the coast. They confined their attention exclusively to sending messages between the several warships and between the fleet and the shore. At Delagoa bay the British admiral sent messages a distance of eighty miles to the fleet off shore. The British battleship Hannibal also sent and received messages to and from the battleship Jupiter, when under way, over a distance of thirty-two miles. One message was sent 400 miles, the greatest distance successfully covered.

While there were none of his assistants with the land forces in South Africa, his system of telegraphy was used by Lord Roberts, and a modification of it by General Baden-Powell. Generals White, Buller and other English officers did not take kindly to the new invention, and instead of using the instruments sent to them for all they were worth, they relied upon the old-time heliograph. It was this prejudice against the new invention that kept wireless telegraphy so much in the background during the early stages of the campaign, and it is possible that it would have received scant notice in the South African campaign had not Lord Roberts assumed command. He was not a kind to keep anything that would serve his purpose in the background simply because it had never been tested in the past. Upon assuming command in South Africa he summoned a body of wireless telegraphers and kept them in his camp all through the struggle. These experts kept

him in touch with the various units of his enormous army, and some of the messages were sent overland a distance of 60 miles. There are ten sets of instruments in Lord Roberts' army, and these have been developed successfully. All scientific questions and experiments made by a rapidly moving army are of necessity scantily reported by a commander in the field, and the accounts of the tests with the wireless telegraphy are still quite vague. Considerable interest will be shown in the official reports of the operators when the war has terminated, and no one will hail the accounts of the experiments with more concern than the inventor.

One important improvement in the system in war times was made through the co-operation of the hero of Mafeking. The difficulty of sending messages any great distance in a mountainous country was overcome by the invention of a system of kites by Baden-Powell. In order to make wireless telegraphy successful it is necessary to raise the wire attached to the instrument to a considerable distance in the air. Thus to telegraph 60 miles, the elevation of the wire should be at least 100 feet above the surface. It was often impossible to find any way to secure this altitude for the wires, but by the using of kites the problem was easily solved. Kites of the Baden-Powell type consequently became inseparably associated with the wireless telegraphy in South Africa, and it was by this means that messages were sent a distance of 60 miles.

Signor Marconi expresses himself satisfied with the experiments made in the war, and so far as the reports have been received they are nearly all favorable in their results. Both the British and Italian navies have adopted the system, and others are experimenting with it for the purpose of using it should it prove satisfactory. Including the United States navy. In the meantime, some of the big trans-Atlantic steamship companies are using the system, and one of the inducements offered their patrons is of communicating with friends on shore long before the steamers reach port. Several hours are saved in this way on both sides of the Atlantic in receiving the latest news of the day which may have transpired on two continents while the passengers were on the sea.

"The fact is," said Manager Cross, "that we will be sending messages probably within a few months. I dislike to say just when as there have been disappointments before. Three months at the outside should see everything working well. Those who are in the company will be well pleased in the near future. If however everyone else should draw out I am so firmly convinced of the feasibility of the system that I shall stick to it and eventually be rewarded by success."

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